

## Calling for Travelers to Guatemala

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee is pleased to announce a **trip to the Guatemalan Highlands** to visit past, current and future Rotary-sponsored infrastructure projects. Mike Paddock, fellow Rotarian, United Nations site recovery expert, Guatemalan advisor, author and more, will lead the trip departing **Saturday, August 13, and returning August 21.**

There are twelve slots available for Rotary members from Wisconsin clubs who have donated funds to recent projects, as well as Milwaukee Rotary Club members. *(Participants must be fully vaccinated and boosted for Covid 19.)* More than 30 Rotarians have participated in past trips and all have been enriched by the experience.

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

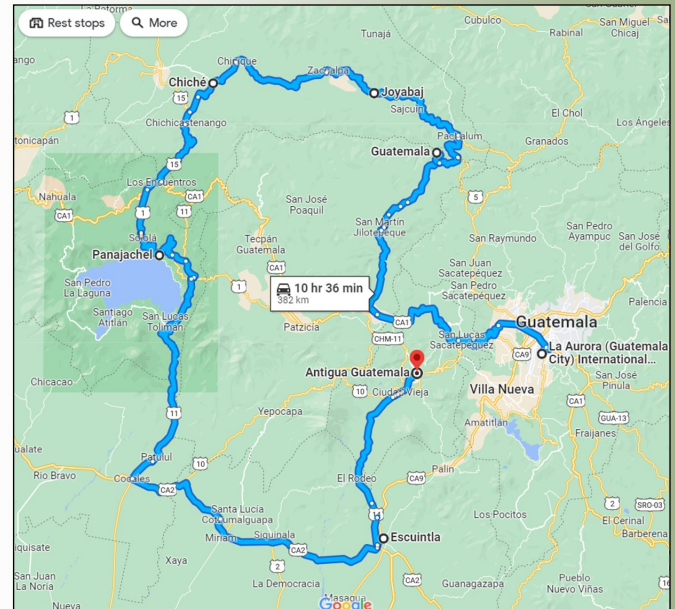
- ◆ Experience the beauty of the people and culture of the indigenous Maya in the Highlands, as well as the incredible beauty of Lake Atitlan, Chichicastenango and UN heritage city Antigua
- ◆ Connect with fellow Rotarians and Engineers without Borders (EWB) leadership in Guatemala
- ◆ Work alongside students from Marquette University on the current El Tesoro water system
- ◆ Celebrate the completion of the Chupoj water project
- ◆ Visit the Escuintla Hospital water system project now nearing completion
- ◆ Get a hands-on look at a RACHEL school computer installation
- ◆ Enjoy a meal with Joyabaj Mayor Florencio Carrascoza, a key and dependable partner in multiple Rotary and EWB projects in the Joyabaj GT area
- ◆ Meet with community leaders to establish potential 2023 Global Grant water projects
- ◆ Visit other Rotary-funded completed water system and pedestrian bridge projects

### ITINERARY AND COST

The **cost** of the trip is estimated at **\$2,500:**

- ◆ \$2,250 payable to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee (RCM) to cover trip expenses including airfare, lodging, food, in-country transportation, and medical evacuation insurance.
  - ◆ \$250 contribution payable to the RCM Community Fund. This tax-deductible contribution will be donated to a student chapter of Engineers without Borders for their work in Guatemala.
- A detailed itinerary, map, and schedule is being prepared. The proposed map is shown at right.

**For further information:** please contact Jerry Stepaniak at 414.745.7744 or [jerrystepaniak@gmail.com](mailto:jerrystepaniak@gmail.com), or Mary McCormick at 414-276-4425 or [marym@milwaukee Rotary.com](mailto:marym@milwaukee Rotary.com)



To secure your spot, **fill out and return this form** along with a **\$500 deposit payable to the Club by June 30, 2022.**

Name as written on passport \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Delta and United frequent flyer numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Seat preference \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-check or global entry # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency contact name & phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Rotary Club of Milwaukee and mail with this form to:

Rotary Club of Milwaukee  
750 N Lincoln Memorial Dr. #320  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

## Why should I sign up for this trip?

As a Rotary Club of Milwaukee member and Global District Grant chair John Hein has said, the success of our projects in Guatemala rests on three components:

- ◆ Strong NGO Partner: Engineers without Borders
- ◆ Strong Rotary Club Partners: In Country Vista Hermosa from Guatemala City and in Huehuetenango and US Rotary clubs that partner with us
- ◆ Strong Community Relationships: the elected and community-based leaders

### A message from our Executive Director—Why Travel Mary McCormick

EWB has a strong presence in the Highlands of Guatemala and several local EWB college chapters choose to work in the area. Our trips are a means of solidifying and honoring our partnership.

The trips foster opportunities to build and celebrate essential relationships with Guatemalan Rotarians and



*Community meets to discuss needs.*

community members. The people who live in the villages impacted by the projects greatly appreciate that we care enough to show up for them. And, we do our best to insure the projects are needed and wanted by the community, not by outsiders, which is essential for the long-term sustainability of the work. We bear witness to the integrity of the work allowing us to assure the funders that the money was used as intended ---which also supports our future efforts to fund Global Grants in partnership with other Rotary Clubs.

It is critical that we have strong and trusting relationships with the Rotarians in Guatemala—relationships that are best



*Clean water flowing to a village*

built face to face. Implementing a Global Grant is not for the faint of heart. The upfront work in preparing the grant request is formidable and can't be done from Milwaukee alone. We count on Guatemalan Rotarians to monitor on-going progress, pay bills and work with us to prepare and submit interim and final reports to the Rotary Foundation.

Fellow travelers find the experience of working alongside students and community members to be a very rewarding part of the trip, however, it is probably the least valuable of the contributions that we make to the community. The Guatemalan Highlands have plenty of able-bodied men and women to work. The people of Guatemala need the funding and the expertise that we can provide.



However, I would be remiss not to say that the projects undertaken by the EWB teams are very valuable learning experiences for the students and our club has been glad to financially support these efforts as we can. The students raise the money, design the project and then work alongside the community to get it done. Working on a project near home would not provide the same level of learning.

This trip provides a chance of a lifetime to work side by side with our partner organizations and the local community in Guatemala. You will witness, first hand, how impactful our work has been and continues to be.